MR. S. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know why it is not made fit for heavy traffic?

MR. I. C. CHACKO: It is safe for light traffic.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether the Government have any objection to give up their monopoly on the routes where State Transport buses are run?

PRESIDENT: Yes, with the greatest pleasure. That means that there will be no transport business in Travancore. If at this moment Government give up the monopoly of State Transport, nobody will be able fo run any bus on the road.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: There are only a few roads on which these buses are run.

PRESIDENT: It may be possible for a few people to make the profit if they get a monopoly instead of the State. But after the first two months they will find that they will not get tyres unless of course they keep a man in Delhi in close touch with the War Supplies Department and the Political Department. Unless that is done they will not get tyres, petrol, spare parts, buses and extra buses. In these circumstances if anybody is willing to take up the monopoly, Government are willing to give it as a present.

MR. M. R. NARAYANA PILLAI: I put these questions not because I am interested in the motor bus business.

PRESIDENT: It is one of the elementary rules that nobody should put questions on a matter in which he is interested. When a member puts a question on a particular matter it naturally follows that he is not interested in that subject. If he is interested, he should not put questions on that matter

The State Transport Department.

139 ***SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI** (*Trivandrum*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) the total number of buses of the State Transport Department now plying;

(*b*) the number of buses purchased at and since the creation of the said Department;

(*c*) the number of buses which are available and are in good condition for use in the service;

(*d*) whether there have been orders of Government sanctioning increase of passengers' fares;

(*e*) whether the increase, if any, is only on petrol-run buses or also in those run with charcoal gas;

(*f*) whether there is any information before Government as to the number of instances and the length of time during which passengers are detained on the roads on account of break down of buses;

(*g*) whether the break down such as they are, occur only in buses running on charcoal gas or also in those run on petrol;

(*h*) whether the break down in the latter class of buses have been due to insufficient quantities of petrol in the tanks;

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(*i*) whether the fitness of individual buses for the roads is being ascertained by competent officers on the eve of the several trips ;

(*j*) who is the Engineer responsible for the work;

(*k*) what is his pay;

(*l*) whether there is a proper gradation of Engineers and Inspecting Officers in charge of the work;

(*m*) the pay of the Engineers immediately below the Chief Engineering officer ; and

(*n*) whether there have been any accidents due to neglect or latches on the part of the mechanical staff attached to the Department of the State Transport ?

MR. N. RAMAMURTI (*Superintendent of Road Transport*) : (*a*) 84.

(*b*) 160.

(*c*) 84.

(*d*) Yes.

(*e*) Increase in fare is not based on types of buses.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) In both types.

(*h*) No.

(*i*) Yes.

(*j*) The Foreman in charge of the Garage.

(*k*) Rs. 40-5-70.

(*l*) Yes.

(*m*) 40-5-70.

(*n*) Very few.

Over-crowding in Transport Buses.

140 ✻ **SADASYATILAKA T. K. VELU PILLAI** : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) Whether there is any restriction placed by law on the number of passengers to be accommodated in each Transport bus;

(*b*) whether over-crowding is common ;

(*c*) whether there is confusion and pell-mell haste and pushing and pulling among intending passengers when the buses start from one place to another ;

(*d*) whether there is any provision for the presence of a policeman to preserve order on such occasions ;

(*e*) whether the Police have any powers in respect of State Transport buses ;

(*f*) whether there is any law or order of Government exempting the Transport buses from the Police Act and the general laws of the State ;

(*g*) whether over-crowding in Transport buses is permitted because of the shortage of transport facilities on account of war condition which limit supplies of petrol and accessories ;

(*h*) whether the rules restricting the number of passengers to be carried in private buses have been relaxed ; and

(*i*) if the answer to part (*h*) is in the negative, the reason for such differential treatments.

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